

GSA Survey to Set U.S. Parking Charges

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WASHINGTON — The General Services Administration will send appraisers to military installations throughout the country in the next few months to determine parking fees for military and other federal employees who drive to work.

Parking will remain free, offi-

cials said, at installations where the appraisers judge the space rental value at less than \$10 per month.

said Office of Management and Budget Director James T. McIntyre in a letter to executive departments. However, he said,

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"The pricing policy primarily will affect federal facilities in downtown locations and in densely populated suburban locations,"

that "more stringent car-pooling requirements will affect all locations."

President Carter announced the

phasing out of subsidized federal parking in a televised address on energy conservation April 4. The main impact would be felt in Washington, D.C., where the executive branch provides more than 27,000 spaces to federal employees within a three-mile radius of the Washington Monument.

Overseas installations would not

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be affected by the parking plan except in Puerto Rico, the Canal Zone and U.S. territories and possessions, officials said.

OMB officials estimate that the government subsidizes \$17 million worth of parking spaces in Washington and up to \$40 million throughout the U.S. each year. They estimate about 130,000 spaces, beside those on military installations, will be subject to charges under the new plan.

The plan calls for phasing in full rates over a two-year period beginning in October. Based on the latest surveys, GSA officials said they expect Pentagon parking rates to be \$19 per month. Only half that amount, however, would be charged in October. OMB officials said the rates will be adjusted annually.

Other estimated monthly parking rates in Washington include \$68 at the New Executive Office Building, \$60 per month at GSA, \$59 at the Forrestal Building, and \$14 at the Transportation Building that soon will house all Coast Guard Headquarters employees. No estimates were available for military bases.

"In an increasingly energy-conscious era," McIntyre said, "it does not seem prudent for the nation's largest employer to subsidize employee parking."

Federal agencies, including the Defense Department, still can propose changes in the parking plan. But, they said, few changes are expected.

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DoD officials said they are not certain how GSA will estimate the

value of parking at military facilities. OMB, however, said parking spaces at military housing units will remain free.

A certain amount of visitor parking also will remain free at most federal facilities, OMB said.

Fees for parking will be set without consideration for the effectiveness of surrounding public transportation systems, OMB said. This will encourage transit authorities to provide better service to federal facilities, officials said.

Corrections

PEOPLE WHOSE 1979 earnings and other qualifications will make them eligible for the "earned income credit" will be entitled to a maximum of \$500. By a typographical error, the figure appeared as \$300 in a page one article in the April 16 issue on the advance payments expected to begin in July.

Previously, taxpayers entitled to the credit — either as an offset to their tax liability or as a direct payment — had to wait to receive it as a rebate after filing their income tax returns for the year. The maximum payment previously was \$400 and the income ceiling on those eligible for the credits was \$8000.

AN APRIL 16 Army Times story incorrectly stated that graduates of the Military Academy Prep School at Fort Monmouth, N.J., receive appointments to West Point. Soldiers who successfully complete the Prep School course become eligible to apply for a West Point appointment.